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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

September 11, 2014

Mr. Timothy D. Cook  
Chief Executive Officer  
Apple Inc.  
1 Infinite Loop  
Cupertino, California 95014

Dear Mr. Cook:

We are writing to request a briefing from Apple's information-security officials about the unauthorized access into individual accounts of your company's cloud database, which stores sensitive, personal information on hundreds of millions of iPhone users. We are interested to know what security protocols Apple has adopted to maximize the safety and privacy of your customers who store information on your company's popular iCloud. We are particularly interested in learning such details given Apple's recent release of its latest iPhone models and the Apple Watch, which, among other things, enable the collection of consumer health data and encourage increased mobile commerce. Furthermore, Apple will soon launch its new cloud storage initiative, iCloud Drive, which your website states will allow consumers to "safely store all your presentations, spreadsheets, PDFs, images, and any other kind of document in iCloud and access them from your iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac, or PC." These combined developments seemingly point to increased migration of sensitive consumer data toward Apple's cloud storage services.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has jurisdiction over commercial data practices and data security, and, as Chairman of the full Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, we have been advocates for data security and breach notification legislation that would better protect consumers and improve corporate responsibility. The recent data security incidents that have affected major corporations, including Apple, demonstrate the need for such federal legislation.

While reports of unauthorized access to iCloud accounts have been sensationalized and have largely focused on its impact on high-profile celebrities, the incident may be another example of potential security vulnerabilities as illustrated in a string of recent data breaches that have put millions of American consumers at risk. We have previously requested and received briefings from other recently-breached entities. Within this context, we ask that Apple's information-security officials provide a briefing to Committee staff regarding your company's investigation and latest findings on the circumstances that may have permitted or prevented unauthorized access to iCloud data. We understand that the focused nature of the attack on specific iCloud accounts is very different from the massive data breaches that affected other companies, but nonetheless indicate potential vulnerabilities in your cloud security protocols that were exploited by hackers.

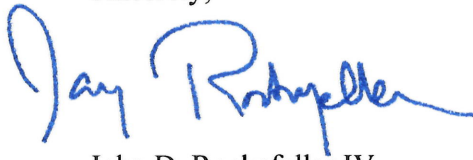
Mr. Timothy D. Cook

September 11, 2014

Page 2 of 2

It has been a week since Apple announced its investigation of this incident, and we expect that your security experts have had time to examine the cause of the attack and will be able to provide the Committee with detailed information. We are interested to know what lessons Apple has learned and of heightened security features the company has adopted for its customers who use cloud storage. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Christian Tamotsu Fjeld on the Committee staff at (202) 224-1270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jay Rockefeller".

John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Claire McCaskill".

Claire McCaskill  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection,  
Product Safety, and Insurance